

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device and a method for forming a weakening area in an airbag cover having a support layer and a decorative layer over the support layer include a cutting support and a cutter. The support supports the airbag cover with the decorative layer side facing down and the cutter is displaceably positionable over the support. A tear line of a predetermined pattern is formed through the support layer and into the decorative layer with the cutter while controlling the depth of cut relative to the support to precisely control the residual thickness of the tear line and to prevent the cutter from penetrating through the decorative layer. The controller controllably displaces the cutter for precise controlled cut.